

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 141510Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4071

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 0711

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IMF, PN, JM, CU
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN PATTERSON

REF: STATE 027594

1. SUMMARY. I MET WITH FONMIN PATTERSON FEBRUARY 10 TO BRIEF HIM ON PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL). HIS MINISTRY'S PERMANENT SECRETARY, FRANK FRANCIS, ALSO WAS PRESENT. PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, REVERE'S PROBLEM, MANLEY AND PATTERSON'S DESIRES TO VISIT WASHINGTON, US-JAMAICAN RELATIONS, IMF, AND US-CUBAN RELATIONS WERE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. PATTERSON DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN BACKGROUND TO CANAL NEGOTIATIONS INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR 1974 AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES. HE DID NOT TAKE ANY POSITION ON THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT DID EXPRESS FULL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION, AND COMMENTED CANAL QUESTION IS A "MATTER OF VITAL INTEREST" FOR CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID GOJ ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT, AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SUCH WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO
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US RELATIONS WITH THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA.
WE THEN TURNED TO OTHER SUBJECTS.

3. THE MINISTER SAID HE HAD A REPORT OF THE MEETING OF AMBASSADOR RATTRAY WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR TODMAN. HE FELT THAT THE CONVERSATION HAD GONE WELL. I ADVISED HIM THAT, WHILE THE REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE,

THERE WAS NO CONFIRMATION YET ON HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY NOR THE MEETING OF PRIMIN MANLEY WITH THE PRESIDENT. I SAID THAT I FELT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO ARRANGE THEM BUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A FLOOD OF REQUESTS FOR SIMILAR MEETINGS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AND HOPED THAT HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE PATIENT. HE SAID THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION. REGARDING HIS REQUESTED MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, IF THIS COULD NOT BE ARRANGED BEFORE THE 25TH, IT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER THE 8TH OF MARCH SINCE HE WAS GOING TO BE INVOLVED IN A CARICOM MEETING. COMMENT: WE ALSO NOTE THAT NACC MINISTERIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 6-11 IN NEW DELHI).

4. I SAID THAT I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REVERE PROBLEM HAD COME UP DURING THE CONVERSATION AND HOPED THAT BY THE TIME HE MET WITH THE SECRETARY SOME RESOLUTION OF THIS RATHER THORNY ISSUE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ARRIVED AT. WE DISCUSSED THE PARAMETERS OF THE PROBLEMS, AND I POINTED OUT THAT ITS CONTINUED NON-RESOLUTION PROVIDED THE ONLY REAL IRRITANT ON THE BAUXITE SCENE AND THAT THERE WERE IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE DEFINITION OF EXPROPRIATION WHICH COULD LEAD TO PROBLEMS WITH THE OTHER ALUMINUM COMPANIES. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF FURTHER WITH THE REVERE CASE; HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WERE NO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WITH ANY OF THE OTHER COMPANIES AND THAT THE AGREEMENT WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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REYNOLDS WAS PROCEEDING WELL AND WOULD BE SIGNED SHORTLY.

5. I ASKED THE MINISTER HOW HE VIEWED THE US-JAMAICAN RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A SINCERE DESIRE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPORVE RELATIONS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE FOREIGN POLICY OF JAMAICA AS ONE OF NON-ALIGNMENT-"WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND NOT BECOME A SATELLITE OF ANY BLOC. JAMAICA WOULD BE SEEKING NEW CONNECTIONS AND NEW MARKETS WHILE NOT FORGETTING ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. JAMAICA RECOGNIZES ITS CLOSE ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE US AND HOPES SHORTLY TO DISCUSS THE IMPROVEMENT OF TRADE AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, ESPECIALLY EXPORT CREDITS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BETTER MARKET FOR SURGAR." THE MINISTER ALSO SPOKE AT LENGTH ON TOURISM, FOR WHICH HE RETAINED RESPONSIBILITY IN HIS PORTFOLIO, AND HOPED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT COULD BE MADE TO REESTABLISH THE US TOURIST

TRADE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED WITH PLEASURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE BY AMERICAN AIRLINES AND WAS GRATEFUL TO ME AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD. HE SAID THAT JAMAICA HOPED TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

6. REGARDING THE IMF, THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MAKE A NEW APPROACH WHEN THE "PRODUCTION PACKAGE" NOW BEING PUT TOGETHER BY A SERIES

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 0711

EXDIS

OF COMMITTEES IS READY SOMETIME IN APRIL. THE APPROACH WOULD BE PREDICATED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THIS REPRESENTED A JAMAICAN PLAN TO MEET THE ECONOMIC CRISIS. HIS GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE IMF TO PERMIT THEIR APPROVAL.

7. PATTERSON EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA. WE DISCUSSED THIS AT SOME LENGTH AND I SPOKE OF THE VARIOUS ISSUES WHICH NEEDED CONSIDERATION IN ANY MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE, INCLUDING THE ANGOLAN AND OTHER AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT OF THE CUBANS, THE RHETORIC AND INTERFERENCE CONCERNING PUERTO RICO AND THE CONCERN WE FELT REGARDING CUBAN ACTIVISM IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA. PATTERSON HOPED THAT JAMAICA COULD PLAY A ROLE IN PROMOTING OUR RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CUBA. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN WORKING TOWARD THE SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN

PROBLEMS WAS IMMENSELY HELPFUL, BOTH IN HELPING TO
RESOLVE A SITUATION IN WHICH THEY WERE "PASSIONATELY"
CONCERNED, BUT ALSO VIS-A-VIS US RELATIONS WITH CUBA IN
LESSENING CUBAN INVOLVMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF
AFRICA.

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8. COMMENT: NOTHING ESPECIALLY NEW IN THIS DIS-
CUSSION EXCEPT THE PLANNED IMF APPROACH AND AN
INDICATION OF THE POSSIBLE TOPICS OF CONVERSATION
WHEN AND IF THE PROPOSED WASHINGTON VISITS TAKE PLACE.

9. PATTERSON COMES ON VERY SERIOUS AND WITH RATHER
FORMAL AND FLOWERY LANGUAGE. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION
THAT HE IS RATHER UNCERTAIN OF HIMSELF IN HIS NEW
ROLE.

GERARD

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